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Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (original) An ink cartridge, comprising:
an ink containing part including a holding member with an ink supply opening part and a sealed ink filling opening part;
a first housing including a holding part holding the holding member of said ink containing part;
a second housing whose outline is analogous to an outline of said first housing; and
a third housing fitted to a side of an assembly of said first and second housings from which side ink is supplied,
wherein said first, second, and third housings are assemblable and disassemblable.
2. (original) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ink containing part is an ink bag including a bag-like part.
3. (original) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ink bag is formed of a member including an aluminum laminate film.
4. (original) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an engagement mechanism that engages said first and second housings.

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5. (original) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 4, wherein said engagement mechanism comprises an engagement claw provided to one of said first and second housings and an engagement part provided to the other one of said first and second housings, the engagement claw and the engagement part engaging each other.

6. (currently amended) [[The]] An ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an ink containing part including a holding member with an ink supply opening part and a sealed ink filling opening part;

a first housing including a holding part holding the holding member of said ink containing part;

a second housing whose outline is analogous to an outline of said first housing;

a third housing fitted to a side of an assembly of said first and second housings from which side ink is supplied; and

an engagement mechanism that engages said third housing with said first and second housings,

wherein said first, second, and third housings are assemblable and disassemblable.

7. (original) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 6, wherein said engagement mechanism comprises engagement claws provided to said third housing and engagement

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recesses provided to said first and second housings, the engagement claws engaging the engagement recesses.

8. (original) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 6, wherein said engagement mechanism comprises engagement recesses provided to said third housing and engagement claws provided to said first and second housings, the engagement recesses engaging the engagement claws.

9. (original) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a label applied to each of said first and second housings so as to reinforce engagement of said third housing with said first and second housings.

10. (original) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a screw member that fixes said first and second housings together.

11. (original) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first, second, and third housings comprises a cutout beside the ink supply opening part and/or a cap member provided to an end of the ink supply opening part of said ink containing part.

12. (original) An ink cartridge housing for containing an ink containing part, comprising:

a first housing including a holding part holding a holding member provided to the ink

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containing part;

a second housing whose outline is analogous to an outline of said first housing; and
a third housing fitted to a side of an assembly of said first and second housings from
which side ink is supplied,

wherein said first, second, and third housings are assemblable and disassemblable.

13. (original) The ink cartridge housing as claimed in claim 12, further comprising an engagement mechanism that engages said first and second housings.

14. (original) The ink cartridge housing as claimed in claim 13, wherein said engagement mechanism comprises an engagement claw provided to one of said first and second housings and an engagement part provided to the other one of said first and second housings, the engagement claw and the engagement part engaging each other.

15. (currently amended) [[The]] An ink cartridge housing as claimed in claim 12, for containing an ink containing part, further comprising:

a first housing including a holding part holding a holding member provided to the ink containing part;

a second housing whose outline is analogous to an outline of said first housing; and
a third housing fitted to a side of an assembly of said first and second housings from
which side ink is supplied;

an engagement mechanism that engages said third housing with said first and second

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housings,

wherein said first, second, and third housings are assemblable and disassemblable.

16. (original) The ink cartridge housing as claimed in claim 15, wherein said engagement mechanism comprises engagement claws provided to said third housing and engagement recesses provided to said first and second housings, the engagement claws engaging the engagement recesses.

17. (original) The ink cartridge housing as claimed in claim 15, wherein said engagement mechanism comprises engagement recesses provided to said third housing and engagement claws provided to said first and second housings, the engagement recesses engaging the engagement claws.

18. (original) The ink cartridge housing as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a label applied to each of said first and second housings so as to reinforce engagement of said third housing with said first and second housings.

19. (original) The ink cartridge housing as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a screw member that fixes said first and second housings together.

20. (original) An ink bag sealing ink therein, the ink bag being housed in a housing of an ink cartridge, the ink bag comprising:

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a bag-like part formed of a member including an aluminum laminate film; and
a holding member including an ink supply opening part and a sealed ink filling opening
part,

wherein the ink bag engages and is held by an engagement and holding part provided to
the housing of the ink cartridge, the housing being an ink cartridge housing as set forth in claim
12.

21. (original) An ink-jet recording apparatus into which an ink cartridge containing an
ink containing part is loadable from a front side thereof, wherein:
the ink cartridge is an ink cartridge as set forth in claim 1.

22. (currently amended) ~~An ink container attachable replaceably to an ink container~~
~~loading part of an image forming apparatus~~ The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further
comprising:

a positioning part defining configured to define a positional relationship between the ink
~~container~~ cartridge and an ink introduction part provided to [[the]] an ink container loading part
of an image-forming apparatus,

wherein the ink cartridge is replaceably attachable to the ink container loading part of the
image-forming apparatus.

23. (currently amended) The ink ~~container~~ cartridge as claimed in claim 22, wherein
said positioning part is a rib engageable with a groove provided to the ink container loading part.

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24. (currently amended) The ink ~~container~~ cartridge as claimed in claim 22, wherein said positioning part is a groove engageable with a rib provided to the ink ~~container~~ cartridge loading part.

25. (currently amended) The ink ~~container~~ cartridge as claimed in claim 22, wherein said positioning part is provided at a position corresponding to a color of ink contained in the ink ~~container~~ cartridge.

26. (currently amended) The ink ~~container~~ cartridge as claimed in claim 22, wherein a positional relationship between said positioning part and an ink supply opening part for supplying ink to the image-forming apparatus is equal to that of another ink ~~container~~ cartridge, the other ink ~~container~~ cartridge containing ink of a color equal to that of ink contained in the ~~container~~ cartridge, and having a shape different from that of the ink ~~container~~ cartridge.

27. (currently amended) The ink ~~container~~ cartridge as claimed in claim 22, wherein a positional relationship between said positioning part and an ink supply opening part for supplying ink to the image-forming apparatus remains constant irrespective of a shape of the ink ~~container~~ cartridge.

28. (currently amended) An image-forming apparatus, comprising:
an ink container loading part to which [[an]] the ink container cartridge as set forth in

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claim 1 is replaceably attachable,

wherein said ink container loading part comprises a positioning part for loading ink containers cartridges that contain ink of a single color and have different shapes.

29. (currently amended) The image-forming apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein
[[an]] the ink container cartridge as set forth in claim 22 is attachable to said ink container
loading part comprises a positioning part configured to define a positional relationship between
the ink cartridge and an ink introduction part provided to the ink container loading part.

30. (currently amended) [[An]] The ink container cartridge as claimed in claim 1,
comprising a dividable housing that houses an ink bag containing ink,
wherein at least one screw member is employable as a fastening member to keep said
dividable housing the first and second housings in an assembled state.

31. (currently amended) The ink container cartridge as claimed in claim 30, wherein a
plurality of screw members are employable as fastening members to keep said dividable housing
in the assembled state; and
the screw members are tightened in a single direction.

32. (currently amended) The ink container cartridge as claimed in claim 31, wherein at
least one of the screw members is concealed from outside view.

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33. (currently amended) The ink ~~container~~ cartridge as claimed in claim 30, wherein said dividable housing is dividable into a plurality of parts; and

a boss part into which the screw member is screwed is formed on one of the parts of said dividable housing, and a recess into which a head of the screw member is fitted is formed in another one of the parts of said dividable housing.

34. (currently amended) The ink ~~container~~ cartridge as claimed in claim 33, wherein said boss part is provided at a position prevented from interfering with the ink bag.

35. (currently amended) The ink ~~container~~ cartridge as claimed in claim 30, wherein the fastening member is provided near a handle part provided to said dividable housing.

36. (currently amended) The ink ~~container~~ cartridge as claimed in claim 30, wherein the screw member is concealed from outside view.

37. (currently amended) An image-forming apparatus, comprising:
an ink container loading part to which [[an]] the ink ~~container~~ cartridge as set forth in claim 30 is replaceably attachable, wherein ~~said ink container is an ink container as set forth in claim 30.~~

38. (original) An ink cartridge, comprising:

ink containing means including a holding member with an ink supply opening part and a

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sealed ink filling opening part;

a first housing including holding means for holding the holding member of said ink containing means;

a second housing whose outline is analogous to an outline of said first housing; and

a third housing fitted to a side of an assembly of said first and second housings from which side ink is supplied,

wherein said first, second, and third housings are assemblable and disassemblable.

39. (original) An ink cartridge housing for containing ink containing means, comprising:

a first housing including holding means for holding a holding member provided to the ink containing means;

a second housing whose outline is analogous to an outline of said first housing; and

a third housing fitted to a side of an assembly of said first and second housings from which side ink is supplied,

wherein said first, second, and third housings are assemblable and disassemblable.

40. (original) An ink bag sealing ink therein, the ink bag being housed in a housing of an ink cartridge, the ink bag comprising:

a bag-like part formed of a member including an aluminum laminate film; and

a holding member including an ink supply opening part and a sealed ink filling opening part,

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wherein the ink bag engages and is held by engagement and holding means provided to the housing of the ink cartridge, the housing being an ink cartridge housing as set forth in claim 39.

41. (original) An ink-jet recording apparatus into which an ink cartridge containing ink containing means is loadable from a front side thereof, wherein:

the ink cartridge is an ink cartridge as set forth in claim 38.

42. (currently amended) ~~An ink container attachable replaceably to an ink container loading part of an image-forming apparatus. The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 38, further comprising:~~

positioning means defining a positional relationship between the ink ~~container~~ cartridge and ink introduction means provided to [[the]] an ink container loading part of an image-forming apparatus,

wherein the ink cartridge is replaceably attachable to the ink container loading part of the image-forming apparatus.

43. (currently amended) An image-forming apparatus, comprising:
an ink container loading part to which [[an]] the ink container cartridge as set forth in claim 38 is replaceably attachable,
wherein said ink container loading part comprises positioning means for loading ink ~~containers~~ cartridges that contain ink of a single color and have different shapes.